UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/714,756	11/16/2000	Lorin Evan Ullmann	AUS9-2000-0707-US1	5037

7590	06/09/2004

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EXAMINER
SIDDIQI, MOHAMMAD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2154	

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2*.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-27 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis

for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or
> described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject
> matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a
> whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having
> ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be
> negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Birrell et al. (6,185,551) (hereinafter Birrell) in view of

Smiga et al. (6,622,147) (hereinafter Smiga).

4.   As per claims 1, 10, and 19, Birrell discloses a method for creating

thread-of-discussion electronic mail messages for chained electronic mail

messages in an electronic mail system (figure 4), said method

comprising the steps of:

parsing text of the body (col 7, lines 24-30, col 15, lines 16-50, col 9,

lines 52-67) of a chained electronic mail message (col 11, lines 30-33) into

discussion entries (figure 5), said parsing being performed by finding

delimiters and message segment indicators (col7, lines 39-55) within the

text of the chained electronic mail message (col 11, lines 30-33);

quoted text (col 9, lines 52-67, col 15, lines 45-50),

sorting said discussion entries into a preferred order (col 11, lines 24-

30);

reducing the discussion entries (col 7, lines 9-14) to discussion information

by eliminating redundant and unnecessary information from said discussion

entries (col 7, lines 9-20); and

outputting (col 9, lines 25) the sorted (col 11, lines 24-30), reduced

discussion entries (col 7, lines 9-14) into a single message having a

thread-of-discussion message format (col 11, lines 35-40, col 12, lines 15-

24).

Birrell does not specifically disclose chained email-messages which indicate

the beginning and ending of two or more discussion entries wherein each

discussion entry represents quoted text or content produced during a

previously-performed message forward or message reply operation;

However, Smiga discloses chained email-messages which indicate the

beginning and ending of two or more discussion entries wherein each

discussion entry represents content produced during a previously-performed

message forward or message reply operation (col 37-38, col 45-48);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Smiga with Birrell because it would provide collaboration between users and efficiently displaying the parsed and linked structured output of the emails.

5.   As per claims 2, 11, and 20, Birrell discloses step of parsing the text of a chained electronic mail message into discussion entries comprises parsing a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol message (col 1, lines 39 -40).

6.   As per claims 3, 12, and 21, Birrell discloses step of parsing the text of a chained electronic mail message (col 7, lines 24-30) into discussion entries (figure 5) comprises parsing a Hyper Text Markup Language message (col 2, lines 60-65).

7.   As per claims 4, 13, and 22, Birrell discloses wherein said step of sorting said discussion entries into a preferred order comprises sorting the discussion entries into a first-to-last order based upon timestamps associated with the discussion entries (col 11, lines 24-30).

8.   As per claims 5,14, and 23, Birrell discloses wherein said step of sorting said discussion entries into a preferred order comprises sorting the

discussion entries into a last-to-first order based upon timestamps

associated with the discussion entries (col 11, lines 24-30).

9.   As per claims 6 and 15, Birrell discloses step of reducing the discussion

entries to discussion information comprises removing extraneous

non-discussion field and formatting information from the discussion entries

(col 7, lines 9-20).

10.   As per claims 7, 16, and 25, Birrell discloses step of outputting the

sorted, reduced discussion entries into a thread-of-discussion message

format further comprises replacing full electronic mail addresses for authors

of said discussion entries with short names or abbreviations associated with

the full electronic mail addresses (col 10, lines 33-44).

11.   As per claims 8,17, and 26, Birrell discloses of merging text from a

chained electronic mail message with text from other chained electronic

messages associated with a common chain group (col 7, lines 9-20).

12.   As per claims 9 and 18, Birrell discloses further comprising a step of

automatically addressing a new electronic mail message to one or more of

members of an associated chain group (col 1, lines 31-33), said new

electronic mail message containing said sorted (col 11, lines 24-30), reduced

discussion entries in a thread-of-discussion format (col 11, lines 35-40).

13. As per claim 24, Birrell discloses message output creator further

comprises a short name label creator (col 8, lines 34-41) for substituting full

electronic mail addresses associated with said discussion entries with short

names associated with said full electronic mail addresses (col 10, lines 33-

55).

14. As per claim 27, Birrell discloses said message output creator further

comprises and automatic message address generator for automatically

addressing a new electronic message to one or more members of a chain

group (col 10, lines 33-55).

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed 04/27/04 have been fully considered but

they are not persuasive:

In response to applicant's argument " Birrell fails to teach

parsing a chained message..", the examiner respectfully disagrees.

The Birrell prior art parsing text of a chained electronic message into

discussion entries, sorting those discussion entries into a preferred

order, reducing those entries and reformatting them into thread-of-

discussion (col 11, lines 24-30, col 9, line 25, col 11, 35-41,col 15,

lines 1-55). Therefore, limitations are met by the reference.

Conclusion

16.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the

extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to

expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a

first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action

and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-

MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will

expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee

pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply

expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications

from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad A Siddiqi whose

telephone number is (703) 305-0353. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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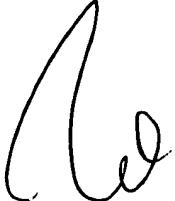
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